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COWBOY COMICS Nº 59

# BUCK JONES



64 PICTURE-PACKED PAGES 8<sup>D</sup>

BUCK JONES

AND THE

# KING *of the* RIO!

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF MEXICO SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE, VIGO LOPEZ WAS CALLED KING OF THE BANDIT BANDS. BUT HE WANTED TO BE KING OF ALL MEXICO! NEWS OF HIS REBEL PLANS BROUGHT GOVERNMENT TROOPS NORTH TO HEM HIM INTO HIS MOUNTAIN FASTNESS. BUT 'KING' VIGO HAD BIG IDEAS AND HIS CALL BROUGHT LOOT-HUNGRY BANDITS FLOCKING TO THE ANCIENT AZTEC PALACE WHICH WAS HIS HEADQUARTERS.

VIVA VIGO!  
KING VIGO!



IN THE GREAT PALACE KING VIGO  
RECEIVES HIS SUBJECTS - - -

THE GOVERNMENT FEARS  
ME - - AND YOU, MY GOOD  
FRIENDS AND FOLLOWERS,  
THEY SEND TROOPS, WHO SIT DOWN  
OUTSIDE OUR RAMPART OF HILLS  
AND DARE NOT ATTACK! THEY  
SURROUND US ON THREE SIDES  
- - BUT THERE IS ANOTHER  
SIDE - - THE RIO GRANDE - -  
THE GREAT RIVER!



ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE ARE RICH  
LANDS WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO  
OUR PEOPLE - - THE LANDS THE  
AMERICANOS NOW CALL TEXAS,  
ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, CALIFORNIA!  
MY ARMY SHALL ADVANCE ACROSS THE  
RIO GRANDE AND TAKE THESE LANDS!



I SHALL BE KING OF ALL THE  
LANDS BORDERING THE RIO GRANDE -  
- - AND THE SPOILS OF WAR  
SHALL BE YOURS!



GOVERNMENT TROOPS GUARD THE  
PASSAGE TO THE SOUTH - - -



- - BUT KING VIGO'S ARMY MARCHES  
NORTH TO THE RIO GRANDE - - -

VIVA VIGO!  
WE SHALL BE  
RICH IN CATTLE  
AND LAND!



IF ALL ELSE FAILS, I WILL  
CAUSE SUCH TROUBLE BETWEEN  
OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE  
GRINGOS THAT MY REBELLION  
WILL SPREAD AND I WILL BE  
KING OF MY OWN LAND



FIRED BY VIGO'S CRAZY DREAM OF POWER THE GREAT COLUMN SPLASHES ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE AT A LONELY SPOT IN THE BADLANDS. IT CROSSES INTO GRINGO TERRITORY-- INTO THE FRINGES OF CHAPARRAL COUNTY-- WHERE BUCK JONES IS SHERIFF AND UPHOLDER OF LAW AND ORDER --



AND FIRST TO FEEL THE ONSLAUGHT OF VIGO'S BANDIT ARMY IS A LONELY RANCH --

SEE, AMIGOS! A RANCHO-- A HACIENDA--  
-BUILT BY OUR ANCESTORS TWO HUNDRED  
YEARS AGO. THE GRINGOS HAVE IT, BUT  
IT SHOULD BE OURS! WE SHALL  
TAKE IT BACK!



WITHOUT WARNING THE ATTACKERS COME IN --



BY HECK!  
GREASERS!

BANDITS!  
AND THEY MEAN  
BUSINESS! GET  
THE BOYS TOGETHER,  
HANK!

SOME OF THE HANDS TRAPPED IN THE BUNKHOUSE OUTSIDE THE HACIENDA WALLS, FIGHT BACK - - -



IT'S MORE THAN A BANDIT BAND - - IT'S AN ARMY! GET INTO THE RANCH-HOUSE, BOYS!



WHILE THE RANCHER AND HIS MEN RETREAT TO THE RANCH-HOUSE, KING VIGO'S CAVALRY STREAMS THROUGH THE GATEWAY - - -



RECKLESSLY THEY RIDE TO THE VERY  
WALLS OF THE HACIENDA - - -







IT'S HOPELESS!  
WE CAN'T HOLD THEM!  
THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS  
OF THE COYOTES!

AND AS HIS MEN OVERWHELM THE  
RANCH, KING VIGO SMILES - - -



GOOD! GOOD!  
IT IS THE FIRST  
BLOW AGAINST THE  
GRINGOS!

SOON THE RANCH IS A SMOKING RUIN - -



THESE CATTLE WILL  
BRING MONEY - - AND  
FOOD FOR KING  
VIGO'S ARMY!

THE BANDIT ARMY DRIVES INTO THE HILLS TO MAKE CAMP WHILE KING VIGO PLANS HIS NEXT MOVE - - -



AND BARELY AN HOUR LATER A LONE DESERT RAT RECEIVES A SHOCK AS HE RIDES TO THE RANCH FOR A MEAL - - -



LATER, IN BUCK JONES' OFFICE IN ALKALI CITY - - -



JOHN CARY WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE! THOSE GREASER BANDITS'LL PAY FOR THIS IF I HAVE TO TRAIL 'EM HALF ACROSS MEXICO!



IN THE BLAZING HEAT OF THE AFTERNOON BUCK RIDES TO THE RUINED RANCH AND HIS INVESTIGATIONS CONFIRM WHAT OLD DAN HAS TOLD HIM. HE RIDES ON THE TRAIL OF THE BANDIT ARMY, AND THE TRAIL IS EASY TO FOLLOW UP INTO THE HILLS - - -



THEN AFTER RIDING FOR HOURS UP INTO THE HILLS BUCK COMES ACROSS THE BANDITS CAMP.

BY CRIKEY! LOOKS LIKE DAN WAS RIGHT! THAT SURE IS AN ARMY DOWN THERE!



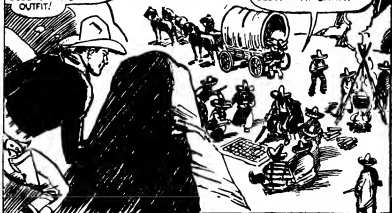
BUCK STANDS AMAZED ABOVE  
THE GREAT CAMP - - -



SOON BUCK FINDS HIMSELF LOOKING  
DOWN ON KING VIGO HIMSELF - - -

JUMPING COYOTES,  
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE  
BOSS OF THIS  
OUTFIT!

BEE, AMIGOS, THE NEAREST TOWN  
IS CALLED ALKALI CITY. IT IS A SMALL  
TOWN, AND VERY ISOLATED. THERE WE  
SHALL STRIKE OUR NEXT  
BLOW - - AT DAWN!



ALKALI CITY, HUH? BY HECK,  
I'D BETTER VANOOSE AND WARN  
THE FOLKS TO BE READY FOR  
THIS MOB! GOOD JOB  
I UNDERSTAND THEIR LINGO!

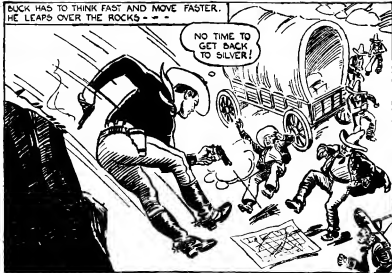
BUT SUDDENLY - -

A  
GRINGO SPY!



BUCK HAS TO THINK FAST AND MOVE FASTER.  
HE LEAPS OVER THE ROCKS - - -

NO TIME TO  
GET BACK  
TO SILVER!



-- AND MAKES STRAIGHT FOR THE SUPPLY WAGON --



BUCK LEAPS TO THE WAGON SEAT  
AND WHIPS UP THE STARTLED TEAM  
AS REVOLVERS ROAR - - -

LUCKILY KING VIGO'S BIVOUAC IS ON  
THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAMP AND  
BUCK GETS A CLEAR START - - -



GLANCING BACK, BUCK SEES THE BRIGANDS GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER -





SILVER, TOO, SEES THE CHASE AND  
RACES TO FOLLOW HIS MASTER - -

BUCKS BORROWED TEAM BEGINS TO  
FLAG AS THE MEXICAN RIDERS  
OVERTAKE HIM - - -



GOT TO SHAKE  
THESE GREASERS  
OFF SOMEHOW.  
BY THUNDER,  
THERE'S SILVER  
DOWN THERE!

RECKLESSLY BUCK SWINGS THE  
WAGON OFF THE TRAIL - - -

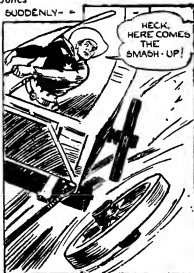


IF I CAN GET  
TO SILVER, WE'LL  
LEAVE THOSE  
GREASERS  
STANDING!

BUT AS SILVER WAITS FOR HIS MASTER --



SUDDENLY --



AS THE WAGON GOES OVER WITH A MIGHTY CRASH,  
BUCK LANDS IN SILVER'S SADDLE - - -



THE GRINGO HAS A  
CHARMED LIFE!  
I THOUGHT HIS RIDE  
WAS FINISHED WHEN  
THE WAGON  
SMASHED UP!



PAH! HE  
MOVES TOO  
FAST TO BE  
HIT!



AND BUCK KEEPS ON MOVING FAST UNTIL, WELL AFTER SUNDOWN, HE  
DASHES INTO ALKALI CITY - - -

EVERY MAN IN TOWN-  
TO MY OFFICE! PRONTO!  
EMERGENCY!

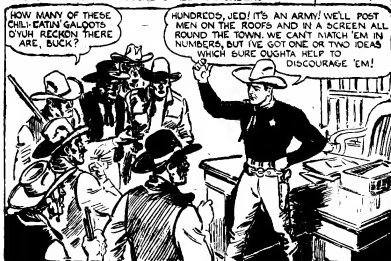
WHAT'S BITIN'  
THE SHERIFF?



WORD FLIES ROUND THE TOWN - - -



ARMED MEN HURRY TO BUCK'S OFFICE FOR ORDERS - - -



BUCK COMPLETES HIS PLANS FOR THE DEFENCE OF ALKALI CITY AND THROUGHOUT THE REMAINING HOURS OF NIGHT ARMED MEN WATCH TENSELY FOR THE FIRST SIGN OF THE INVADING BANDIT ARMY - - -

SURE, BUCK!  
WE'LL GIVE THOSE  
VARMINTS A SMACK  
THEY WON'T FORGET!



AND AT SUN-UP KING VIGO'S ARMY APPROACHES ALKALI CITY - - -

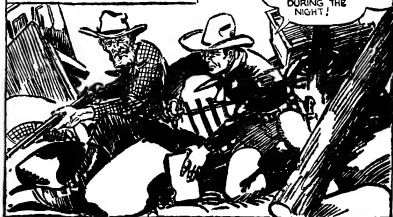
WHAT OF THE  
GRINGO SPY? DO  
YOU NOT THINK  
HE HAS WARNED  
THESE PEOPLE?

PAH, HE WAS BUT A  
CHANCE RIDER. IF  
HE DOES NOT SPEAK  
OUR TONGUE HE  
WOULD NOT HAVE  
UNDERSTOOD WHAT  
I SAID ANYWAY. DO NOT  
WORRY, AMIGO! WE SHALL  
TAKE THEM BY  
SURPRISE AS  
THEY SLEEP!



BUT AS THE DAWN LIGHT STRENGTHENS,  
THE WHOLE OF ALKALI CITY IS ALERT  
AND BUCK JONES GRINS AS HE  
PREPARES TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE  
IN HIS DEFENCE PLAN - - -

GUESS THIS'LL  
UPSET 'EM! THEY  
DIDN'T KNOW WE'VE  
LAID DYNAMITE CHARGES  
DURING THE  
NIGHT!



AND AS THE BANDITS CHARGE TOWARDS  
ALKALI CITY - - -



WHAT IS THIS? TAKE COVER!  
MEN KEEP FIRING, YOU  
OTHERS WORK ROUND TO  
ATTACK UNDER COVER  
OF THE SHOOTING!



SCORES OF RIFLES SEND A HAIL OF  
LEAD SMASHING INTO THE BUILDINGS  
OF THE TOWN - - -



AS THE BULLETS WHINE INTO THE TOWN, MEN ARE HIT - - -





A BAND OF HORSEMEN RIDE WARILY ROUND  
READY TO ATTACK FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION - - -



BUT BUCK IS READY FOR  
SUCH A MOVE - - -



AND AS THE MEXICANS CLIMB OUT OF THE GULLY, READY TO CHARGE, THE DYNAMITE WAGON RUSHES DOWN TOWARDS THEM - - -



AS MEN AND HORSES SCRAMBLE BACK INTO THE GULLY AGAIN - - -



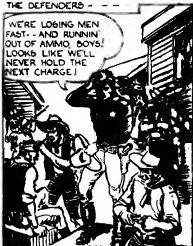
AND SUDDENLY - - -



BUCK'S DYNAMITE DODGE HAS BAKEN THE BANDITS AND THINNED THEIR RANKS, BUT VIGO GIVES THE ORDER AND RECKLESSLY ANOTHER PARTY CHARGES TO THE VERY WALLS OF ALKALI CITY - - -

AGAIN THE ATTACK IS DRIVEN OFF - - BUT SHEER NUMBERS ARE AGAINST THE DEFENDERS - - -

WE'RE LOSING MEN FAST - - AND RUNNIN' OUT OF AMMO, BOYS! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEVER HOLD THE NEXT CHARGE!



AND IN COMES THE NEXT ATTACK, WITH KING VIGO HIMSELF IN THE LEAD - - -



IT'S ALKALI CITY,  
BOYS! I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT'S UP, BUT BY  
GUM, THEY NEED  
OUR HELP!

BUT AWAY ACROSS THE DESERT SOUNDS THE  
THUNDER OF MORE HOOPS. A COMPANY OF TEXAS  
RANGERS HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE REGION,  
HUNTING DOWN A LARGE BAND OF RUSTLERS—  
AND AT THEIR MORNING CAMP THEY HAVE  
HEARD THE FARAWAY ROAR OF EXPLOSIONS  
AND THE RATTLE OF GUNFIRE — — —



BACK IN ALKALI CITY THE BANDITS BREAK THROUGH THE BARRICADES AND  
STORM DOWN THE MAIN STREET — — —



THEN BUCK SEES LOPE VIGO - -

AH, YOU--  
THE SPYING  
GRINGO!

BUCK HITS KING VIGO - - HARD - - -

STOP RIGHT THERE,  
COVOTE. IF I GET A  
CHANCE I'LL BE PUTTING  
YOU UP FOR TRIAL!

BUCK BELIEVES HE WILL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO BRING THE BANDIT KING TO TRIAL - - - BUT UNKNOWN TO THE SHERIFF AND UNHEARD IN THE DIN OF FIGHTING - - - HELP ARRIVES AS THE TROOP OF RANGERS STORM INTO THE TOWN - - -

GET INTO 'EM, BOYS!  
WE'LL SHOW THOSE  
GREASERS WHAT THE  
TEXAS RANGERS  
CAN DO!





GRINGO TROOPS!  
THEY HAVE SENT  
THEIR ARMY  
AGAINST US!



BEEING THE TEXAS RANGERS, KING  
VIGO'S ARMY BREAKS IN PANIC AND  
STREAMS AWAY ACROSS THE PLAIN.





COME ON, MEN, WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN! WE'LL CHASE 'EM CLEAR TO THE RIO GRANDE AND GIVE 'EM A LESSON THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!



IT'S THE TEXAS RANGERS! THEY'VE SAVED US!

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, BOYS, TO KEEP THOSE GREASERS ON THE RUN!



IN THE SADDLE AND IN ALL KINDS OF WAGONS, THE DEFENDERS OF ALKALI CITY BREAK OUT TO JOIN IN THE ROUT OF KING VIGO'S ARMY - - -



WHILE IN ALKALI CITY, LOPE VIGO,  
A KING NO LONGER - - -

STRING HIM  
UP!

YEAH, LET'S HOLD  
A NECKTIE  
PARTY!

TAKE IT EASY, FOLKS.  
HE'S MY PRISONER.  
THE STATE WILL  
DEAL WITH HIM.



-- BECOMES A PLAIN AND  
ORDINARY JAIL-BIRD!

SORRY I CAN'T GIVE YOU  
MORE COMFORTABLE  
QUARTERS, YOUR MAJESTY,  
BUT IF I DON'T KEEP YOU  
BEHIND BARS THOSE  
FOLKS OUT THAR SURE  
WILL CROWN YOU!



# BUCK JONES *and the* ROOKIE RANGER

UPROAR BREAKS OUT IN THE  
MAIN STREET OF ALKALI CITY,  
AND CROWDS SCATTER.  
WILDLY AS A MOUNTED  
STRANGER BLASTS HOT LEAD  
RIGHT AND LEFT, RIDDLING  
DOORS AND SHATTERING  
WINDOWS ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

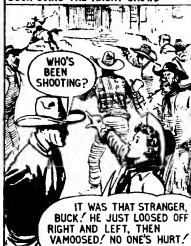
LOOK  
OUT! RUN  
FOR IT,  
FOLKS!

THE GUY  
MUST BE CRAZY!  
GIVE ME  
ROOM ~ ~ ~

BUCK LEAPS TO THE DOOR OF HIS OFFICE LIKE A FLASH ~ ~



TESS ANDREWS SWINGS ROUND AS BUCK JOINS THE ANGRY CROWD ~ ~



HE MUST HAVE BEEN UP TO SOMETHING! A GUY DOESN'T CAUSE A HULLABALLOO LIKE THAT FOR NO REASON AT ALL ~ ~



THEN FROM UP THE STREET COMES A MIGHTY BLAST AS BUCK'S JAILHOUSE GOES SKY-HIGH!



I GET IT NOW! IT WAS A PLOT TO GET ME OUT OF THE WAY WHILE SOMEONE BLASTED THE JAIL! MUST BE SOME OF TEX SNYDER'S GANG, SPRINGING HIM FROM JAIL!



MEANWHILE, BEHIND THE WRECKED JAILHOUSE, TEX SNYDER, THE TEXAS KILLER, STUMBLES OUT OVER THE DEBRIS ~

COME ON, TEX! HURRY! BEFORE THAT DOGGONE SHERIFF GETS BACK!



YUP! AND HE SHOULD BE WAITING FOR US NOW!

O.K! LET'S GO!



AS THE CROOKS TEAR AWAY AT TOP SPEED, BUCK RACES UP THE STEPS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GUN IN HAND ~



PHEW! THEY SURE WRECKED THE JOINT! I'VE GOT TO GET AFTER THEM! THE RANGERS ARE DUE TO COLLECT THAT KILLER THIS MORNING!



BUCK RACES OUT AND LEAPS TO THE SADDLE ~ ~ ~



BUCK GALLOPS UP THE MAIN STREET AT BREAKNECK SPEED, IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF THE ESCAPING CROOKS-



MEANWHILE, A NORTH-BOUND EXPRESS PULLS INTO ALKALI STATION, JUST OUTSIDE THE TOWN ~~~



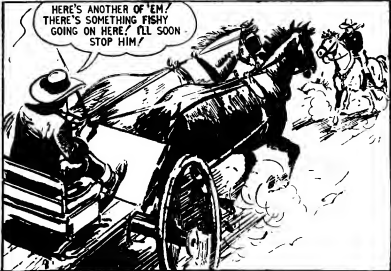
SURE IS A BIG RESPONSIBILITY,  
BRINGING IN A KILLER LIKE  
TEX SNYDER--I'LL HAVE TO  
KEEP ON MY TOES  
ALL THE TIME!



THEN THE ESCAPING CROOKS SWING ON  
TO THE TRAIL, AND TEAR ACROSS IN  
FRONT OF SMILER, IN A WHIRLING  
CLOUD OF DUST!

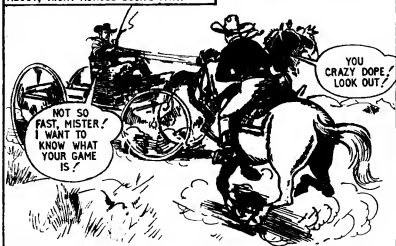


HERE'S ANOTHER OF 'EM!  
THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY  
GOING ON HERE! I'LL SOON  
STOP HIM!





SMILER HEAVES BACK ON ONE REIN, SWINGING THE BUCKBOARD SUDDENLY ABOUT, RIGHT ACROSS BUCK'S PATH ~



BUCK MAKES A LAST MINUTE EFFORT TO CLEAR THE OBSTACLE, BUT SILVER JUST FAILS, AND THEY CRASH TO THE GROUND ~



GEE, I'M SORRY, SHERIFF! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP! THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME NO-GOOD MAKING A GETAWAY!





THEN TESS ANDREWS REINS IN  
ALONGSIDE ~

ARE YOU HURT,  
BUCK? I SAW YOU  
TUMBLE. IS THERE  
ANYTHING I CAN  
DO?

YOU BET! LEND  
ME THAT HORSE, TESS!  
SILVER'S A BIT SHAKEN,  
AND I WANT TO GET  
AFTER THOSE CROOKS!

AS BUCK TEARS AWAY SMILER SWINGS  
THE BUCKBOARD ABOUT AND MAKES  
FOR THE STATION WITH A SIGH ~

THIS IS SURE NOT  
MY LUCKY DAY ~  
-- OH WELL --

I GUESS YOU MUST  
BE MIGHTY DISAPPOINTED,  
PAL. BUT KEEP SMILING!  
YOU'LL GET YOUR  
CHANCE AGAIN!

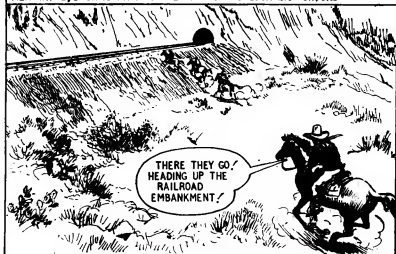
THEN AS TESS GOES TO MOUNT SILVER, TO TAKE  
HIM BACK TO TOWN; SHE STOPS DEAD WITH A  
GASP ~ ~

BUCK'S GUN! MUST HAVE  
PITCHED OUT WHEN HE WAS  
THROWN! HE'S  
GONE AGAINST  
THOSE THREE  
KILLERS  
UNARMED!

SNATCHING UP THE GUN,  
TESS SWINGS ABOUT AND  
GALLOPS AFTER BUCK ~

COME ON, SILVER! HURT  
OR NOT, YOU'VE GOT TO  
MOVE FAST, BOY, OR  
BUCK'S A GONER!

MEANWHILE, BUCK IS RAPIDLY OVERTAKING THE ESCAPING CROOKS ~ ~



BUCK GALLOPS TO THE FOOT OF THE EMBANKMENT, GRABBING FOR HIS GUN.





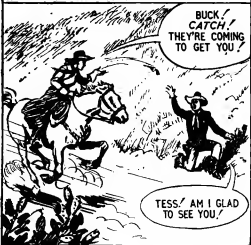
LIKE A FLASH, BUCK HURLS HIMSELF FROM HIS HORSE, AS HOT LEAD CRACKLES PAST HIM ~

I'M SURE IN A FIX NOW! THOSE CROOKS HAVE GOT ME COLD!

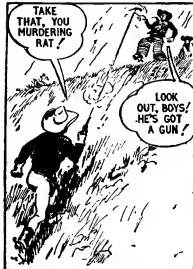


THEN TESS GALLOPS IN AT TOP SPEED, AND HURLS BUCK'S GUN TO HIM ~ ~

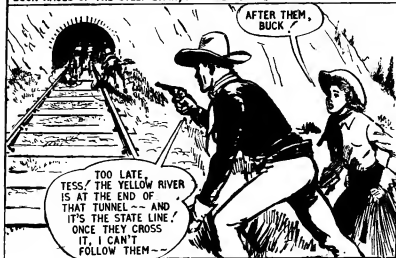
BUCK! CATCH! THEY'RE COMING TO GET YOU!



TESS! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!



BUCK RACES UP THE STEEP BANK, FOLLOWED BY TESS ~ ~ ~



THEN ROARING UP THE TRACKS COMES  
THE TEXAS FLYER!

JUST A  
SECOND! WE'RE NOT  
BEATEN YET! IT'S A  
CHANCE IN A MILLION,  
BUT I'VE GOT TO  
TAKE IT!



BUCK RACES ALONGSIDE THE  
THUNDERING TRAIN, AND MAKES A  
MIGHTY LEAP ~



MEANWHILE, THE CROOKS GALLOP OUT  
AT THE FAR END OF THE TUNNEL ~

THE YELLOW RIVER! ONCE  
WE'RE ACROSS WE'RE SAFE!





AS BUCK LEAPS OUT INTO SPACE, THE ENGINEER YELLS AND SLAMS ON HIS BRAKES ~ ~ ~





THE TRAIN SCREECHES TO A STAND-  
STILL, AS BUCK LANDS ON TOP OF  
THE TEXAS KILLER ~



MEANWHILE, SMILER HAS LEAPT DOWN  
FROM HIS COACH ~



THEN SMILER HURTTLES IN LIKE A  
SHOT FROM A GUN ~



OFF THERE, YOU  
MURDERING  
RAT!



THEN WITH A TERRIFIC UPPERCUT,  
BUCK SENDS TEX CRASHING BACK  
INTO SMOKEY ~



UP TO THE  
TRAIN, MISTER,  
AND NO TRICKS.



# BUCK JONES

*and the*

## STRANGER

THERE'S A BOARD OUTSIDE ALKALI CITY THAT SAYS "WELCOME" ~ BUT IT'S A MIGHTY QUEER WELCOME THAT YOUNG OUT-OF-  
WORK, CLIFF KENYON RECEIVES



SO THIS IS ALKALI,  
HUH? AS GOOD A PLACE  
AS ANY TO FIND WORK  
I GUESS!

AS CLIFF ROUNDS A CORNER ~ ~

OUCH! WHY  
DON'T YOU LOOK  
WHERE YOU'RE  
GOING, YOU BIG-  
FOOTED HOMBRE?

STEADY PARTNER  
THAT'S FIGHTING,  
TALK! AND IF  
YOU WANT  
TROUBLE ~





A CROWD SOON COLLECTS, AND TEMPER ARE HIGH OVER THE KILLING OF SUCH A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY

DIDN'T HAVE A  
CHANCE TO  
PULL HIS GUN!

POOR OLD HONEST  
JIM, LET'S STRING  
THIS GUY UP!

YEAH, WHAT THIS GUY NEEDS IS A NECK-TIE PARTY!

LISTEN YOU CRAZY  
(DIOTS - I DIDN'T  
KILL HIM ~ ~ I ~



SUDDENLY ANOTHER VOICE SPEAKS ABOVE THE HUBBUB--- THE VOICE OF THE SHERIFF, BUCK JONES.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? HAVE YOU ALL GONE CRAZY?



DOGGONE, BUCK~  
KINDA LOST  
OUR HEADS!

YEAH, SHERIFF.  
RECKON I'M  
PLUMB SORRY.

RECKON YOU  
AN' ME ARE  
GONNA HAVE  
A LITTLE CHAT.  
THE REST OF  
YOU GO ON  
HOME!



BUCK HEARS THE ACCOUNT OF THE SHOOTING, BUT ON THE EVIDENCE OF JANE GARRETT HAS TO ARREST CLIFF KENYON.

I'M INNOCENT, SHERIFF. HECK! I DIDN'T KILL HIM!

MAYBE ~  
MAYBE NOT.  
BUT YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
STAND TRIAL  
KID.



MEANWHILE, AT THE MIDAS GAMBLING SALOON FURTHER DOWN MAIN STREET, NAT AND LIONEL WOLFE, THE OWNERS, ARE IN CONFERENCE.

PITY THAT STRANGER HAPPENED ALONG JUST THEN! D'YOU THINK HE GOT A GOOD LOOK AT US?

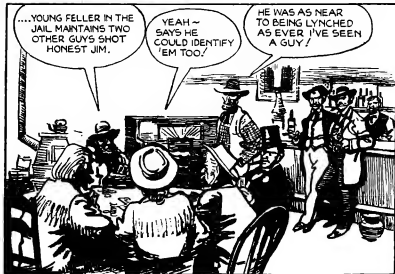
DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW. LET'S GET DOWNSTAIRS ~ AND KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN!



....YOUNG FELLER IN THE JAIL MAINTAINS TWO OTHER GUYS SHOT HONEST JIM.

YEAH ~ SAYS HE COULD IDENTIFY 'EM TOO!

HE WAS AS NEAR TO BEING LYNCHED AS EVER I'VE SEEN A GUY!



GET THE BOYS, PRONTO ~  
I'VE GOT AN IDEA TO GET RID  
OF THIS AWKWARD STRANGER



THERE'S BEEN TALK OF NECK-TIE PARTIES  
TO-DAY. NOW I WANT SOME ACTION  
GET THAT GUY IN THE JAIL ~  
AND GET HIM GOOD. IT'LL BE  
WORTH YOUR WHILE ~  
UNDERSTAND?

SURE THING,  
BOSS!



LATER THAT NIGHT.

BRING HIM OUT, SHERIFF.  
WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL  
WITH GUNMEN!

YEAH, BRING  
HIM OUT, OR  
WE'LL COME IN  
AND GET HIM!



NO ONE TAKES MY  
PRISONER ~ AND THE  
FIRST MAN WHO TRIES  
TASTES LEAD!

















BUCK HURRIEDLY SHINS UP TO THE WINDOW AND ENTERS THE WOLFE BROTHERS' LIVING QUARTERS.



THAT HEEL WAS SHOT FROM THIS BOOT ALL RIGHT! LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND THE GUY I WANT.



SUDDENLY, THE WOLFE BROTHERS ENTER THE ROOM ~

YOU'RE JUST THE GUYS I'M LOOKING FOR-- I'M GONNA RUN YOU IN FOR THE SHOOTING THIS AFTERNOON

AND YOU WITHOUT A GUN? NIX, SHERIFF - YOU AINT GONNA RUN ANYWHERE - THIS IS WHERE YOU GET YOURS!



BUCK'S AIM IS TRUE, AND THE  
LAMP IS SHATTERED.  
NAT WOLFE'S GUN SPITS  
VICIOUSLY~~



GO AND GET ANOTHER  
LIGHT. HE CAN ONLY  
GET OUT BY THE WINDOW—  
AND HE'LL BE A PERFECT  
TARGET IF HE TRIES!

O.K.  
BROTHER.



HE'S GONE! HOW THE  
HECK DID HE MANAGE  
THAT?



DOGGONE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!  
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOT OUT!



BOTH OUT  
COLD!



I'LL GET A COUPLE OF THE  
BOYS FROM DOWNSTAIRS TO  
GUARD THESE RATS.



BUT BUCK IS MISTAKEN/  
NAT WOLFE IS NOT OUT  
COLD!



BUCK SENSES THE DANGER AND SIDESTEPS THE VICIOUS  
BLOW IN THE NICK OF TIME.







He was  
**"SHRIMP"**  
 to the boys  
 at the baths!

WATER WINGS!  
 HUH! ONLY  
 THING THAT  
 KEEPS THAT  
 GUY AFLOAT

SHRIMP!  
 COME OUT OR  
 YOU'LL DROWN!

CHANGING  
 WAS AGONY!

HANKY, SHRIMP?  
 IT'S BIG ENOUGH  
 TO DRY TWO  
 OF YOU.

I MUST SHOW  
 THEM!  
 BUT HOW?

LATER.

HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?  
 FIVE TERRIFIC BODY  
 BUILDING COURSES  
 FOR 2/6.  
 WOW! JUST  
 WHAT I NEED.  
 I'LL WRITE TO  
 GEORGE F. JOWETT  
 NOW!

TWO  
 WEEKS  
 LATER.

WHERE'S SHRIMP'S  
 WATER WINGS?

HA  
 HA!

GOSH!  
 IT'S BRUISING!

JUST LOOK AT THOSE  
 MUSCLES -- AND CAN HE  
 SWIM? PUT THAT GUY  
 IN THE TEAM, AND  
 WATCH US WIN!

FOR THE BEST SWIMMER  
 AND ALL-  
 ROUND  
 ATHLETE OF THE  
 YEAR.

HE  
 DESERVES  
 IT!

HEAR  
 HEAR

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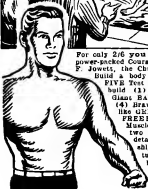
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BUCK RACES ROUND TO JANE GARRETT'S HOUSE TO TELL THE STRANGER THAT ALL IS WELL. BUT WHEN HE ARRIVES ~ ~



WEEKS LATER, WHEN THE BROTHERS FACE TRIAL IT IS REVEALED THAT MULLIGAN THE BANKER WAS DEMANDING THE RETURN OF A LARGE LOAN. UNABLE TO PAY, THE WOLFE BROTHERS RESORTED TO GUNS. THE VERDICT OF THE JURY IS UNANIMOUS **GUILTY!**

THEY BURNT MY PLACE DOWN BUT THIS'LL BE A FINE OFFICE!

THAT PLACE SURE NEEDED CLOSING. THE CITIZENS ARE MIGHTY GRATEFUL TO YOU, BUCK!



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